

War, he would later spend 3 years as a civilian POW in World War II.

When his days of being an active participant in two World Wars ended, he eventually settled into a quiet existence in Charles Town where his tractor, his farm, as well as his friends and family were enough to sustain him.

As I got to know him, I learned that his deep appreciation for books and culture was an important part of who he was. He spoke multiple languages, enjoyed talking about culture more than he did war, and was thoughtful and interested to the end.

To most of us though, Frank in the end amounted to so much more than just a man who had lived a life that was as interesting as it was unpredictable.

Frank became a symbol for the entire war for the nearly 4.5 million U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who defeated the Central Powers in the first Great War.

As the last living connection to the First World War, his importance in our collective psyche grew with each passing year. He seemed impossibly stubborn and tough and his long and wonderful life made him all the more special.

Towards the end of his life, more and more people understood just how privileged we all were to keep company with the last surviving Doughboy.

He was a link to a long ago war, not forgotten but so far in the past that the pictures that we think of when we conjure up images are all grainy and tattered.

It made it all the more amazing that Frank was the only man who could honestly look any of us in the eye and say "this is what the war was like."

More than 116,000 Americans died in World War I. Frank was an adamant proponent of remembering these heroes by establishing a National World War I Memorial on the National Mall.

I agree and support him on that effort which is why I am the proud sponsor of the bipartisan bill to truly honor our World War I veterans. The bill would create a commission to plan for the upcoming centennial, and it would rededicate the DC memorial as the DC and National World War I memorial. It would also dedicate the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, MO. I agree with Frank Buckles on the importance of remembering our veterans and want to say again here today: I am more determined than ever to make this happen and will not give up until we get that bill passed.

Finally, I want to extend my sympathies again to Frank's daughter, Susannah Buckles Flanagan. She has lovingly looked after Frank and helped make sure his last years were lived with dignity and care.

Frank, you will be missed.

#### REMEMBERING CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the

life and achievements of César Estrada Chávez, a man who led our nation in the struggle for civil rights and whose efforts helped create a better future for all Americans.

On March 31, 2011, we will celebrate César Chávez Day to remember his courageous fight for justice and the lessons he taught us about the power people have when they join together to face the challenges before them.

Colorado's Hispanic community heard that message loud and clear during the days of the civil rights movement. Our State was an important stage for engaging Mexican-Americans in that time. Not only did Chávez-led efforts bring better living and working conditions to farm workers of all backgrounds in Colorado, from the Eastern Plains to the San Luis Valley and the Western Slope, but this movement also ignited service veterans, students and community leaders in Colorado to champion a cause that promoted equality, justice and empowerment. Leaders like Colorado's own Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, who as a young student labored in the beet fields and later became a respected poet and leader in the civil rights movement, joined an effort to speak for those who felt they had no voice and empowered those who felt helpless. Gonzales found strength in youth empowerment, and he dedicated his life to helping Hispanic youth in Colorado and the Southwest realize their value in their communities. The legacy of these leaders can be seen today in the many organizations that grew from this movement and which continue to inspire youth and veterans of all backgrounds to develop their talents and skills for a brighter future.

Our Western heritage is richer for the hard fought contributions of Rodolfo Gonzalez, César Chávez and others. These figures drew on their determination and hard work to cultivate a more informed youth and sow the seeds of civil justice in the West. Chávez embodied an unparalleled commitment to millions who worked the land to provide for their families and for a growing country. With his father unable to work, Chávez himself labored in the fields to support his family and provide a better life for them. He worked under poor conditions and earned low wages, facing the same struggles as so many migrant workers. Chávez's story serves as a testament to a community searching for justice. It was his resolute leadership that brought national attention to the unacceptable working conditions and unfair pay faced by farm workers in the West and across America.

Through nonviolent protest, Chávez mobilized and improved the lives of millions, and he is a role model for Coloradans, and all Americans. This March, communities throughout Colorado will once again come together to honor his legacy and the continued fight for justice. Today, I am proud to rise on behalf of Coloradans, to honor those continuing his work and to acknowledge Chávez and the vision cap-

tured in his own uniting words, "We have seen the future, and the future is ours."

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVEN J. GOOLS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator LEVIN to pay tribute to Stephen J. Gools, a tireless champion of causes important to senior citizens and an agent of positive social change throughout his long and distinguished career. Indeed, there are many across Michigan that have benefited greatly from his many efforts over the years.

Since March 2000, Steve has served as director of the AARP Michigan State Office in Lansing, leading a team of 11 staff and serving more than 1.4 million AARP members in the Great Lakes State. Under his leadership, AARP Michigan has been enormously successful in protecting consumers, championing the rights of those over the age of 50 in communities across our State and helping AARP members live their lives to the fullest. His innovative volunteer training and development conferences have served as the gold standard for State management within AARP.

Prior to joining AARP, Steve served as communications director for the Michigan Democratic Party and held senior management positions with Michigan candidates. Steve worked for me as my communications director and played an instrumental role in electing me to Congress. In addition, he worked for the bipartisan Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition and the U.S. House Budget Committee Task Force on Community and Natural Resources.

Throughout his professional career, Steve has been a role model and shining example of leadership, intellectual curiosity, courage and determination. He always met his responsibilities with warmth, humor, and infectious enthusiasm.

To honor his work and leadership, AARP has announced the establishment of the Stephen J. Gools Award for Social Change. The annual award will recognize a Michigan individual or organization that demonstrates outstanding achievement in improving the lives of the 50+ population in our State.

It is most fitting that the award will bear the name of a man who has championed the causes of justice, compassion, and equality throughout his life. The award will encourage and recognize those who seek to follow in his footsteps.

We are grateful to him, his wife Kimberly, and his family for the work he has done for the people of Michigan and our country. He has had a lasting impact on the lives of many, and we honor his dedicated service.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN RHYNO

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Madam President, I rise today to recognize John Rhyno of North Attleboro,

MA. John is a community leader with an innate sense of right and wrong and the courage to put it into action.

Some people decide they should help those in need. Some people do it as part of a company or religious group's volunteer day. Then there are the quiet heroes and unsung patriots like John, for whom helping others is simply part of who they are.

I met John during my first campaign for Massachusetts State Senate in 2003. He is the son of a World War II veteran, John Sr., who returned from the war to work as a jeweler, when that industry still had a commanding presence in the Attleboros. In addition to working long hours herself, John's mother was devoted to caring for her husband and their only son. The values John learned at home were reinforced in his community through the YMCA, Boy Scouts, church, and school sports.

As a boy, John did yard work, shoveled snow, fixed cars and did other odd jobs, contributing much of the money he earned to his parents to help make ends meet. His wife Sherry tells the story of a Christmas when a young John Rhyno surprised his parents by purchasing a tank full of heating oil from W.H. Riley & Co., a practice he continued over the years. Even though it was for his own home, the experience planted the seed within John that those closest to those in need know best how to help them through tight times. I will talk more about this in a moment.

At a young age, John demonstrated that doing what is right often requires as much courage and toughness as it does compassion. He would regularly stand up to bullies, even when they were picking on kids he hardly knew. John was also a talented athlete and excelled on North Attleboro High School's football field and in other varsity sports. As an adult, John coached local Catholic Youth Organization basketball teams.

After graduating from NAHS, he took night classes at Wentworth Institute and Fisher College, earning college degrees in automotive technology and business while working full-time managing the repair garage, motor pool, and snow removal for a local manufacturing plant. A devoted employee, John quickly assumed a good deal of responsibility. After more than a decade on the job, new management took over. One day, his new boss called him into his office and told John that to save money, John would have to lay off a subordinate. He refused. Taken aback, his boss explained in not-so-subtle terms the finer points of insubordination and its consequences. John got the message and did the only thing that seemed right to him. He quit, saving his subordinates job.

Within a few weeks, John and a friend hung a shingle at 675 East Washington Street in North Attleboro. Thirty years later, "John & Ed's Garage" remains a successful local business.

John Rhyno saw local public office as an opportunity to advocate for his

friends and neighbors. He won his first race for North Attleboro Selectman in 2000. John and Sherry use the term "office" very broadly. Open office hours take place at the couple's home, where they encourage constituents to share their concern and ideas for making their community a better place to live, learn, work and play.

During the unusually hot summer of 2005, many local seniors on fixed incomes expressed concern over how they would afford the rising energy costs. John recalled how he was able to help his own parents decades earlier with much needed home heating oil and together with Sherry, a professional artist who retired from UMass Boston after 30 years in senior management, founded Neighbors Helping Neighbors. In the 6 years since they started the 501(c)(3) community assistance fund, it has raised and donated over \$100,000 by and for the people of North Attleboro to help pay for home heating or just make ends meet until they get their feet on the ground. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to those in need through a voucher system—no red tape, bureaucracy, delays, overhead or excuses. There's no better proof than Neighbors Helping Neighbors that those closest to a problem are often in the best position to devise solutions.

The Rhynos still open their home for office hours, though local residents also know they can always just drop by John & Ed's Garage when they have got a concern. About to begin his twelfth year on the town's Board of Selectmen, John is known as an accessible commonsense problem solver who always seeks citizen input, often taking out newspaper surveys to gauge local opinion.

Residents are so accustomed to his sincerity it seems only his closest friends can tell when he is joking. One Easter Sunday, John and Sherry drove to inspect a local family's historic stone wall that the town had slated for removal. With the homeowner at a town board meeting on the issue a few weeks later, John decided to have a little fun. Doing his best to keep a straight face, John passionately told colleagues and residents of how as a boy visiting the town's historic Woodcock Garrison House, he heard the story of how townspeople stood on a stone wall with buckets of water for Paul Revere's horse on his historic midnight ride. John expected that his obvious tall tale would bring a few much needed laughs to the otherwise dry meeting. Instead, the board bought it hook, line and sinker and gave unanimous consent to save the wall.

On March 21, 2011, John Rhyno will receive the North Attleboro/Plainville Rotary Club's top honors: the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Citizen for his lifetime of advocacy for his community. I join them in honoring John and extend my own heartfelt thanks for his friendship counsel and his selfless dedication to his community.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO TOM COURTNEY

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I join my colleague Senator JIM RISCH as well as our colleague from the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, to recognize and pay tribute to the exceptional leadership and dedication of a great Idaho public servant, Mr. Tom Courtney, city manager of Twin Falls, ID. Tom has served the citizens of Twin Falls with distinction for almost 34 years. Initially hired as assistant city manager in 1977, he was promoted to city manager in 1980 where he continues to serve until his upcoming retirement on March 31, 2011. During Tom's tenure, the city saw tremendous growth and expansion as it transitioned from a predominantly agriculture-based economy to a manufacturing-based economy. Foreseeing these changes, Tom was instrumental in restructuring city government roles and functions to better serve the individual and the greater good of the community. Originally from California, Tom received his master's and bachelor degree from Utah State University and briefly worked for the city of Tracey, CA, and Stockton, CA, before coming to Idaho.

Tom's management and leadership style closely reflects the motto of the city of Twin Falls: "People serving People." Tom has proven his leadership through his philosophy and actions. As a 40-year member of the International City/County Managers Association he has mentored many young leaders. Tom embodies the philosophy of servant leadership: Truly effective leaders go one step further and focus on service to those in their own organization, ensuring they are prepared, confident and empowered to reach their goals. These leaders create caring communities characterized by collaboration, trust and teamwork. Through his leadership, the city of Twin Falls has been managed with fiscal responsibility and an unwavering sense of ethics and integrity.

Tom's commitment to the city should not be overshadowed by his love and dedication to his wife Mary and three children, Mike, Amy and Ryan, and six grandchildren, Mathew, Courtney, Hailey, Jack, Nathan and Quinn. While very much engaged in his family's lives and activities, Tom's retirement will give Mary and him more opportunities to be full-time grandparents.

It is hard to live in Idaho for so many years and not develop a passion for its beauty and outdoors. True to his commitment to enjoy life to its fullest extent, Tom is an avid backpacker and fisherman. We hope he is planning on many more days of hiking in the Sawtooth Mountains and fishing for steelhead in the Salmon River. Besides a dedicated outdoor enthusiast, Tom is a devoted runner who has completed numerous marathons in Idaho and